



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

March 31, 2006

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**VISALIA NURSE PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF IMAGES
OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Agrees to 6-year Prison Term and to Resign Nursing License

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that ROBERTA SUE RIGSBEE, 46, of Visalia, California pleaded guilty before the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger to one count of possession of visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors.

The case was investigated by agents of the Fresno Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, RIGSBEE admitted, as part of a plea agreement, that on March 15, 2005, she possessed between 300 and 600 images of child sexual exploitation, including images of prepubescent minors, some of which were depictions of violence and/or sadistic or masochistic conduct. In addition, she will resign her license as a registered nurse in California and accept a term of imprisonment of 72 months.

According to court documents, RIGSBEE was released on conditions after an indictment was returned against her on June 30, 2005. She violated a condition of her release by accessing the internet while employed as a nurse at University Medical Center in Fresno. As a result of that violation, a federal magistrate ordered RIGSBEE remanded into custody on February 1, 2006, and she remains detained. According to her plea agreement, the defendant also agreed to pay restitution to the University Medical Center in Fresno of approximately \$4400 representing money she received for work she did not perform.

RIGSBEE will be sentenced on June 26, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. She faces a maximum prison term of ten years, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a potential lifetime term of supervised release.

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